

DRAFT

BOARD of FINANCE

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2016

**ATTENDANCE:** The meeting was convened at 7:32 pm by Chairman Ezzes in the Town Hall Meeting Room with members Mr. Sargent, Mr. Finkel, Mr. Bochinski, Mr. Ferguson, and Ms. Koller present. Also present were First Selectman Daniel, Town Administrator Landry, Finance Director Darling, Supt. Palmer, Business Manager Rudl, and all Board of Education members.

**POLICE SRO VEHICLE:** Chief Troxell provided the Board with a price quote of \$18,000 for a demonstrator model 2013 Chevrolet Impala. The car is for the new School Resource Officer. He described the vehicle and its intended use. The car will have a constant campus presence, and will not be used as a patrol car. The Board did vote unanimously (Mr. Bochinski motion, Ms. Koller second) to authorize an \$18,000 withdrawal from the Police Vehicle Revenue Fund.

The Chief provided a status update on the SRO position. In response to questions, he said that the SRO will be offered the first opportunity for overtime opportunities at school events. The school budget will pay the overtime cost for standard school activities – dances, games, parent night, etc. The Police Department budget will pay for overtime expenses related to Police activities such as investigations or court testimony.

**SCHOOL FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Supt. Palmer, Mr. Rudl, and BOE Chair Uzenoff provided the Board with the list of budget reductions approved by the Board of Education in response to the \$464,000 reduction in state ECS aid. The list totals \$487,599 in targeted reductions (attached). Ms. Uzenoff and others spoke of the difficulties presented by these reductions.

Discussions centered upon the fact that the reductions offered were primarily one time capital deferrals, rather than staff or other operating budget reductions which would carry forward to future budgets. In response to questions, Ms. Uzenoff replied that no administrative or teaching positions were included in the reduction.

The Superintendent asked that the District be allowed to keep all of its expected surplus for the current year ( \$90,000 estimated) to address some capital needs. It further asked that it be allowed to keep current year tuition revenues (\$36,128) and excess cost reimbursements for special education (\$47,732) which have historically been retained in the Town General Fund, to help mitigate some of the cuts on the provided list. Mr. Sargent said that the excess cost revenue seemed appropriate, but the tuition retention was a new approach and he wasn't yet supportive of that. After discussion, however, the rest of the Board concurred with the BOE request, and both sources of funding will be made available to the BOE, along with the requested year end operating budget surplus funds.

Discussions of how future reductions in aid will be responded to if they are received, reached no definitive conclusion. Finance members assured the BOE that they will work with them to provide a reasonable response once the extent and the size of the cut is known.

**SENIOR CENTER VAN PURCHASE:** Mr. Landry described the vehicle requested, noted that it is a replacement for the current vehicle, and that the purchase was included in the Vehicle Sinking Fund capital appropriation for FY2016-17. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously ( Mr. Sargent motion, Mr. Ferguson second) to authorize the withdrawal of \$55,247 from the Vehicle Sinking Fund for the purpose of purchasing a new Dial A Ride van.

**TOWN FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Mr. Darling provided the Board with a year end projection indicating that the Town operating budget will end the year with a surplus of \$123,000. The general Fund Balance is estimated to reach \$12.2 million at year end. A more detailed discussion of line item expenses and revenues followed his report (attached).

**MEETING MINUTES:** In a single motion (Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Koller second) the Board voted 4-0-2 (Mr. Bochinski, Mr. Sargent) unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of May 5 as presented.

**ADJOURN:** At 9:47 pm, a motion (Ms. Koller, Mr. Ferguson second) to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous vote. The Board members then joined the Selectmen's meeting to hear a presentation regarding the Police Station expansion.